

Indies ; the vessel in which I was to sail would not have waited for me ; all the expedients I could have fallen upon, to regain my money would undoubtedly have been fruitless, and the delay they would have occasioned, would have been more prejudicial to me than the loss of it.

This discourse made Perrin's heart leap with joy ; he repeated his invitation with more earnestness : he intreated the gentlemen to accept of the asylum which he offered them ; he assured them that his house was the nearest, and the most commodious habitation of the place : they complied with his request, he went on first to shew them the way. He soon met his wife, who, according to custom, came to meet him ; he desired her to hasten home, and prepare a dinner for his guests. On their arrival he brought them some refreshment, and renewed the conversation of the one hundred pounds. By the sequel of the traveller's discourse, he was convinced that he was the man to whom he owed a restitution ; he went to the new rector, informed him of what he had learned, and begged that he would do him the favour to dine with him. He accepted his invitation, and accompanied him, admiring (as he went) the joy of the peasant on a discovery which might be his ruin.

Dinner

Dinner is served up : the travellers are charmed with the hospitality of Perrin : they admire his domestic oeconomy, the benevolence of his heart, the frankness of his behaviour, the ingenuous and engaging manner of Lucetta, her assiduities, and her kindness ; they caress the children. After dinner, Perrin shews them his house, garden, and cattle ; he informs them of the situation, fertility, and produce of his fields. All this, added he to the traveller, (on whose account he was so particular) belongs to you : the money which you lost fell into my hands ; when I found it was not likely to be reclaimed, I bought this farm with it, which I always intended to give up to him who should convince me that he had a right to it. I now resign it to you ; if I had died without finding you, the rector has a deed which confirms your property.

The stranger was for some moments lost in amazement.—He read the writing which the rector put into his hand.—He looked earnestly on Perrin, on Lucetta, and their children.—Where am I, at length, exclaimed he ! and what have I heard !—What an uncommon manner of proceeding ! What virtue, what nobleness of soul !—Have you nothing to depend upon but this farm, added he ?—No ; but if you do not sell it, you will

C

need